



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
TRANSITION TEAM FOR THE
OFFICE OF CHILD PROTECTION
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 381B
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012**

Monday, February 9, 2015

11:30 AM

AUDIO AND VIDEO LINKS FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (15-0773)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)
 [VIDEO](#)

Present: Co-Chair Leslie Gilbert-Lurie, Co-Chair Mitchell H. Katz, Patricia Curry, Hon. Margaret Henry, Richard Martinez, David Sanders and Janet Teague

Absent: Hon. Steve Cooley and Antonia Jiménez

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order. (15-0291)

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Leslie Gilbert-Lurie at 11:33 a.m.

2. Approval of the January 12, 2015 meeting minutes. (15-0292)

On motion of Member Hon. Margaret Henry, seconded by Member Richard Martinez, there being no objection, the January 12, 2015 meeting minutes were approved.

Ayes: 6 - Co-Chair Leslie Gilbert-Lurie, Patricia Curry, Hon. Margaret Henry, Richard Martinez, David Sanders and Janet Teague

Absent: 3 - Co-Chair Mitchell H. Katz, Hon. Steve Cooley and Antonia Jiménez

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

3. Introduction of Fesia Davenport, Interim Director, for the Office of Child Protection (OCP) and an update on the status of the OCP. (15-0364)

Co-Chair Leslie Gilbert-Lurie introduced Fesia Davenport as the Interim Director for the Office of Child Protection (OCP).

Fesia Davenport reported that she started her new assignment as the Interim Director for the OCP on February 2, 2015. Ms. Davenport provided updates regarding a countywide mission statement for the OCP, which is currently being drafted and invited feedback from the Transition Team once the mission statement is developed. She also reported that the Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection (BRCCP) recommendations are being reviewed and she will reach out to Transition Team Acting Executive Director for updates.

The Transition Team offered their assistance with implementation of the BRCCP recommendations. Also, the Transition Team expressed that the mission statement should include community input, highlight child safety and collaborations among all departments, and include effective interventions and allocation of resources to align with the mission statement.

4. Discussion on the implementation and status of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection recommendations including:
 - Education of school-aged foster children;
 - Recruitment of non-relative foster homes; and
 - Update on timelines of the Approved Relative Caregiver Funding Option Program. (15-0293)

Representatives from Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), Dr. Arturo Delgado, Superintendent, and Dr. Rachelle Touzard, Consultant II, Foster Youth, Child Welfare and Attendance, responded to questions posed by the Transition Team regarding the well-being and stability of foster youth. Also provided was a brief overview of the Local Funding Control Formula (LCFF) and Local Control Accountability Program (LCAP), new accountability mechanisms that enhance collaboration with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), Foster Education, and Probation. As a result, comprehensive strategic plans are in place to better identify foster youth needs, and partnerships are established to assist foster youth transition from high school to community colleges.

Dr. Debra Duardo, Executive Director of Student Health and Human Services, and Erika Torres, Director of Pupil Services LAUSD, reported that the new LCAP formula has encouraged advocacy of services, assessments of all foster youth, data sharing processes, and ongoing collaboration with DCFS, Probation and LACOE for immediate intervention.

In addition, foster parents are provided training to navigate within the LCAP system, and support services are closely collaborated with the Alliance of Children's Rights and the Department of Public Social Services.

Jesus Corral, Senior Director of Educational Services, Probation, reported ongoing data-sharing with LAUSD and collaboration with county partners. Mr. Corral reported that Probation is working with LACOE and LAUSD to assess foster youth transitioning into the community and foster youth counselors are located in field offices to assist foster youth. Felicia Davis, Director of Residential Based Services, reported that through collaborations with LAUSD, her staff has access to the student tracking system to monitor student records for foster youth in group homes or relative and non-relative care.

Jill Rowland, Education Program Director, Alliance for Children's Rights provided a brief presentation regarding school stability, foster youth remaining at their schools of origin, suitable home placements and group home recruitments. Additionally, Mr. Rowland summarized the cross agency collaborations and partnerships with the California Department of Education, California School Board of Directors Association, and Child Welfare Directors Association which created a Tool Kit to assist agencies with assessments and providing services for foster youth needs.

Dr. Marvin J. Southard, D.S. W., Director, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health provided a brief overview on Probation and DCFS mental health screenings, referral tracking, and timely mental health treatments for foster youth.

Representatives of DCFS, Jennifer Hottenroth, Assistant Division Chief, Bureau of Clinical Resources and Services, and Patricia Armani, Education Unit, reported on training provided specifically for complex education issues, collaborations between staff, education consultants and the school districts. Also provided was information on wraparound services, academic mediation and mentoring services, and achievement programs that include school presentations by university professors.

Phillip L. Browning, Director, DCFS reported that the growing need for foster care recruitment and child care for foster youth with children is ongoing. Mr. Browning also explained efforts made to keep special needs children with foster families instead of group homes.

Representatives from DCFS, Bill Thomas, Division Chief, Adoption and Permanency Resources, Sari Grant, Recruitment Administrator, Cecilia Custodio, Division Chief, Business Information Services, and Karen Richardson, Division Chief, Out-of-Home Care Management, with representatives from UCLA, Dr. Todd Franke, Dr. Robert Blagg, and Professor Tina Christie, along with Robyn Harrod, Senior Director of Programs, Southern California Foster Family & Adoption Agency addressed the Transition Team and responded to questions posed regarding recruitment and placement of foster families in Los Angeles County.

Discussion ensued regarding foster family recruitment and retention; demographics; technology demands; availability of homes for sibling groups and teens with mental health issues; and the importance of stability for foster children.

- 5. Discussion on the status of the search for the Director of the Office of Child Protection. (15-0643)**

This item was not discussed.

- 6. Update by Co-Chair Leslie Gilbert-Lurie on her visit to Medical HUBs. (15-0294)**

This item was not discussed.

III. MISCELLANEOUS

- 7. Items not on the posted agenda, to be presented and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take immediate action came to the attention of the Transition Team subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (15-0297)**

The next Transition Team meeting scheduled for February 23, 2015 is canceled due to lack of a quorum; the next regular Transition Team meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2015.

8. Opportunity for member of the public to address the Transition Team on items of interest that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Transition Team. (15-0298)

No members of the public addressed the Transition Team.

9. Adjournment. (15-0299)

There being no further business to discuss, on motion of Member Janet Teague, seconded by Member Hon. Margaret Henry, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

Ayes: 7 - Co-Chair Leslie Gilbert-Lurie, Co-Chair Mitchell H. Katz, Patricia Curry, Hon. Margaret Henry, Richard Martinez, David Sanders and Janet Teague

Absent: 2 - Hon. Steve Cooley and Antonia Jiménez